

X-MEN

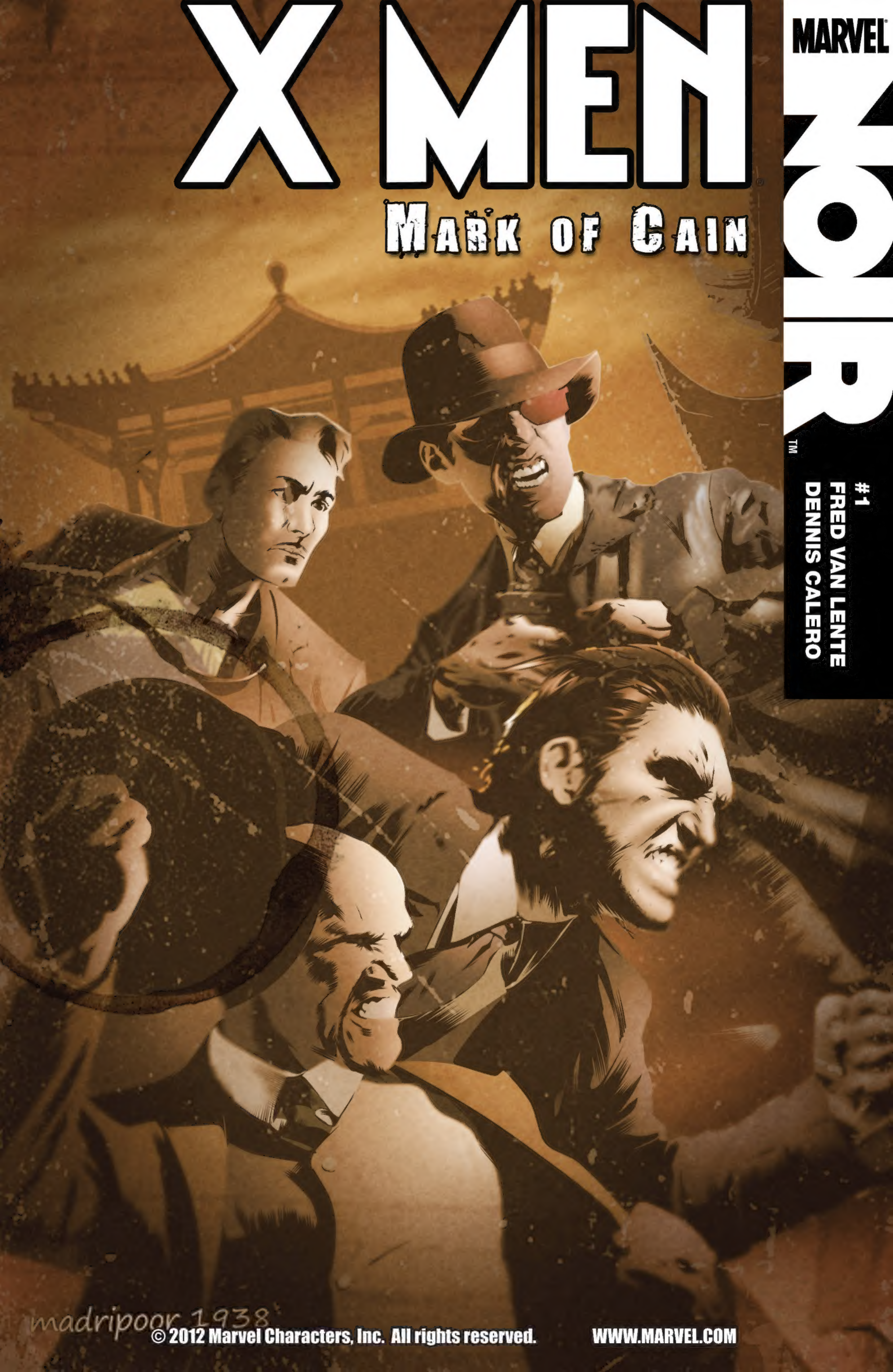
MARK OF GAIN

MARVEL

TM

#1

FRED VAN LENTE
DENNIS CALERO



madripor 1938

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NEWS OF THE NOW

DATELINE: Washington, D.C.

SENATE HEARS GENOSHA BAY HORRORS

The Senate Judiciary Committee heard testimony today after tearful testimony about the inhuman conditions at the U.S. extraterritorial prison in Genosha Bay...

...beatings, sleep deprivation, even water torture!

Lawmakers' calls for the prison's closing have intensified...

...along with the rhetoric from its defenders, including Senator Robert Kelly, Republican of New York!

The prisoners in Genosha Bay are not typical criminals!

Eugenics has determined these men--and a few women--to be the worst of the worst international sociopaths captured on foreign soil!

Science says these psychos must be kept in strict isolation, lest they "infect" the regular prison population with their degenerative criminality!

Genosha Bay's fate may prove a moot point, since even lawmakers for its closing will not allow its inmates to be transferred to prisons in their districts!

"Not in my backyard," eh, Congressmen?

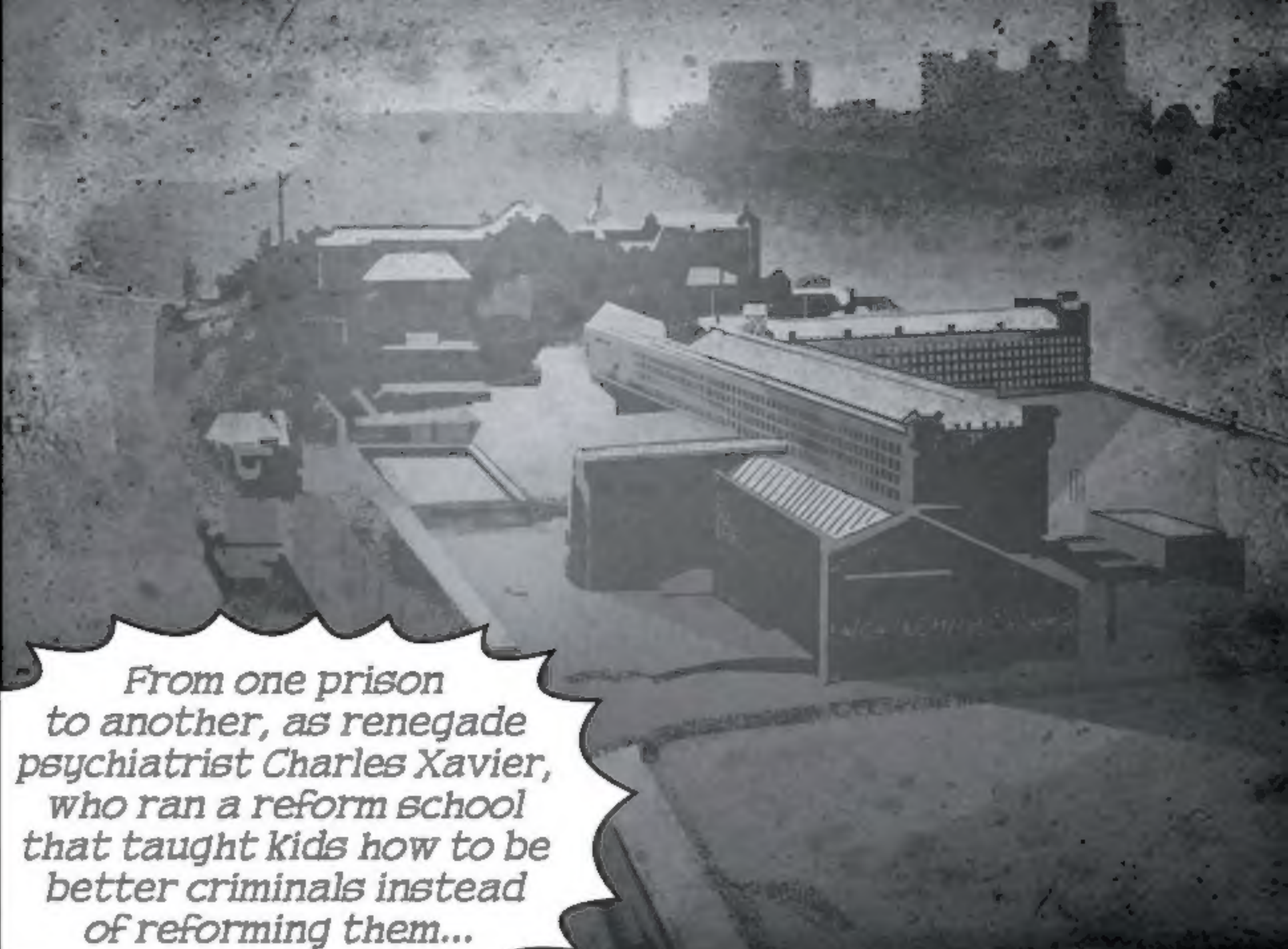
And while the controversy rages, Genosha Bay remains open for business--with NO shortage of genetic psychos to fill its cells!

DIE
NO PSYCHO
M SCUM!!!
PSYCHOS!
PSYCHOS!!!

DATELINE: New York, NY

"PROFESSOR OF CRIME"

RELEASED



From one prison to another, as renegade psychiatrist Charles Xavier, who ran a reform school that taught kids how to be better criminals instead of reforming them...

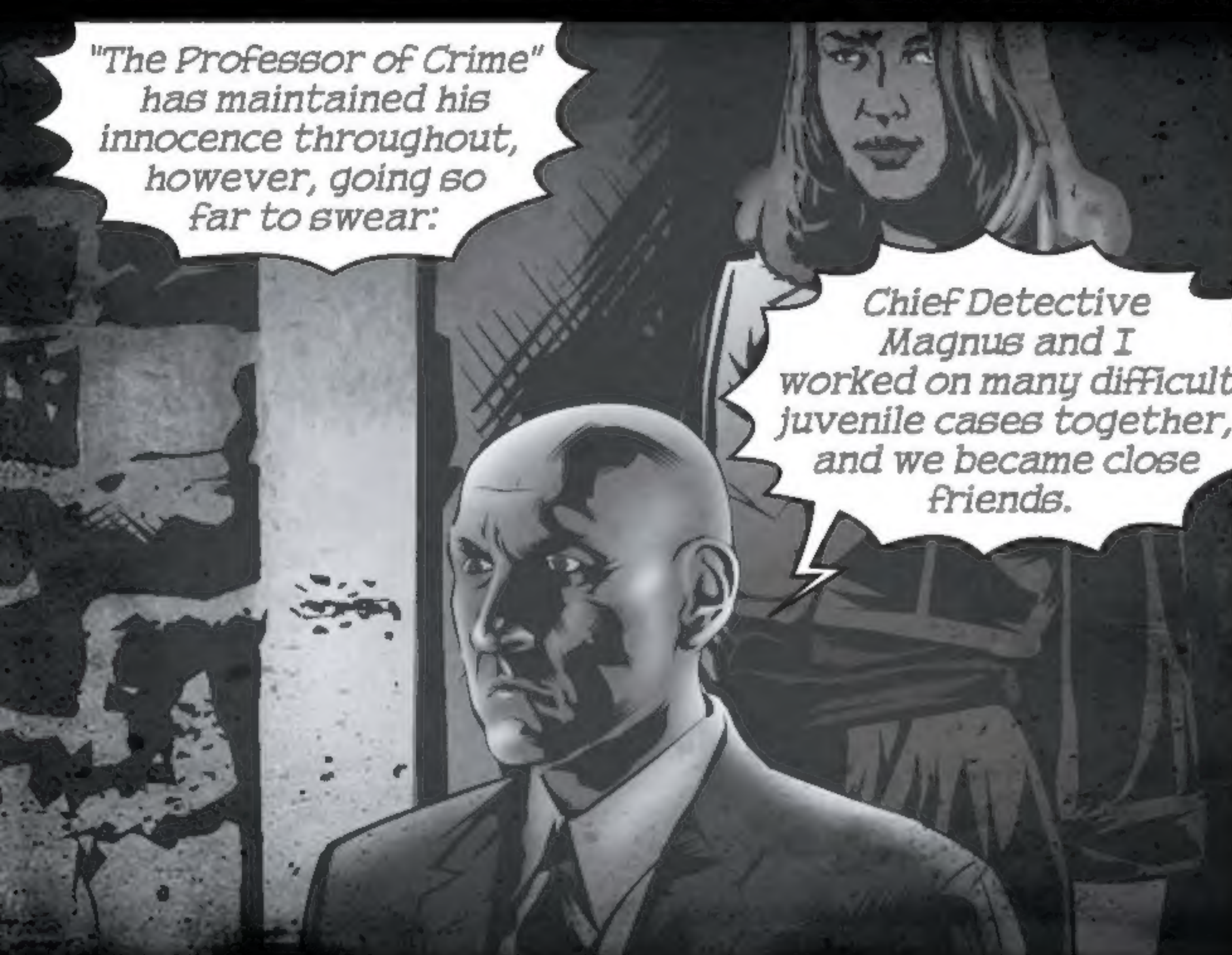


...was released today from Riker's Island jail!

The District Attorney was forced to drop all charges against the leader of the so-called "X Men," since anyone who could testify against him was dead!



The People's primary witness, Chief of Detectives Eric Magnus, was slain at the bloody massacre on Welfare Island a few months back!

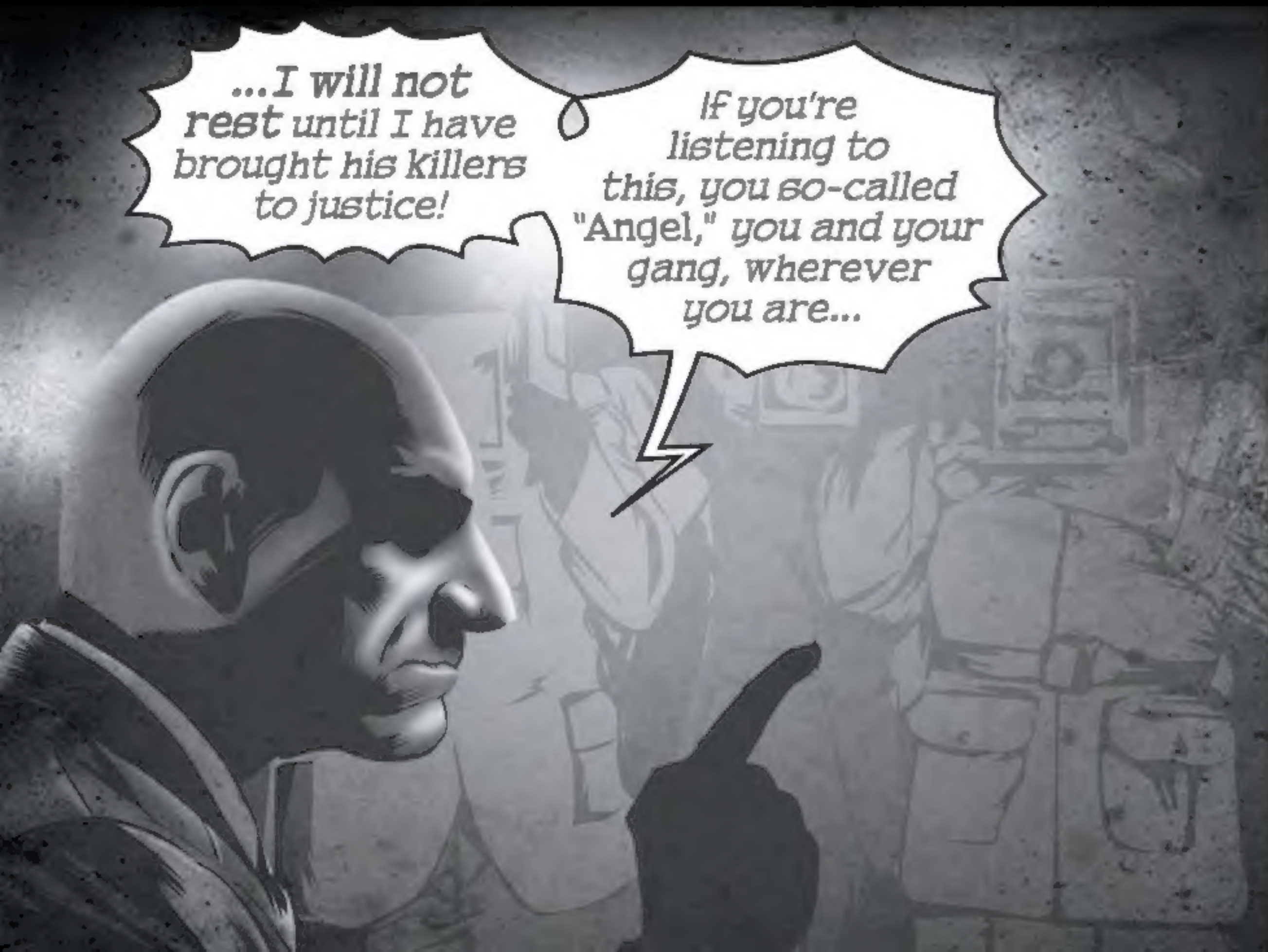


"The Professor of Crime" has maintained his innocence throughout, however, going so far to swear:

Chief Detective Magnus and I worked on many difficult juvenile cases together, and we became close friends.

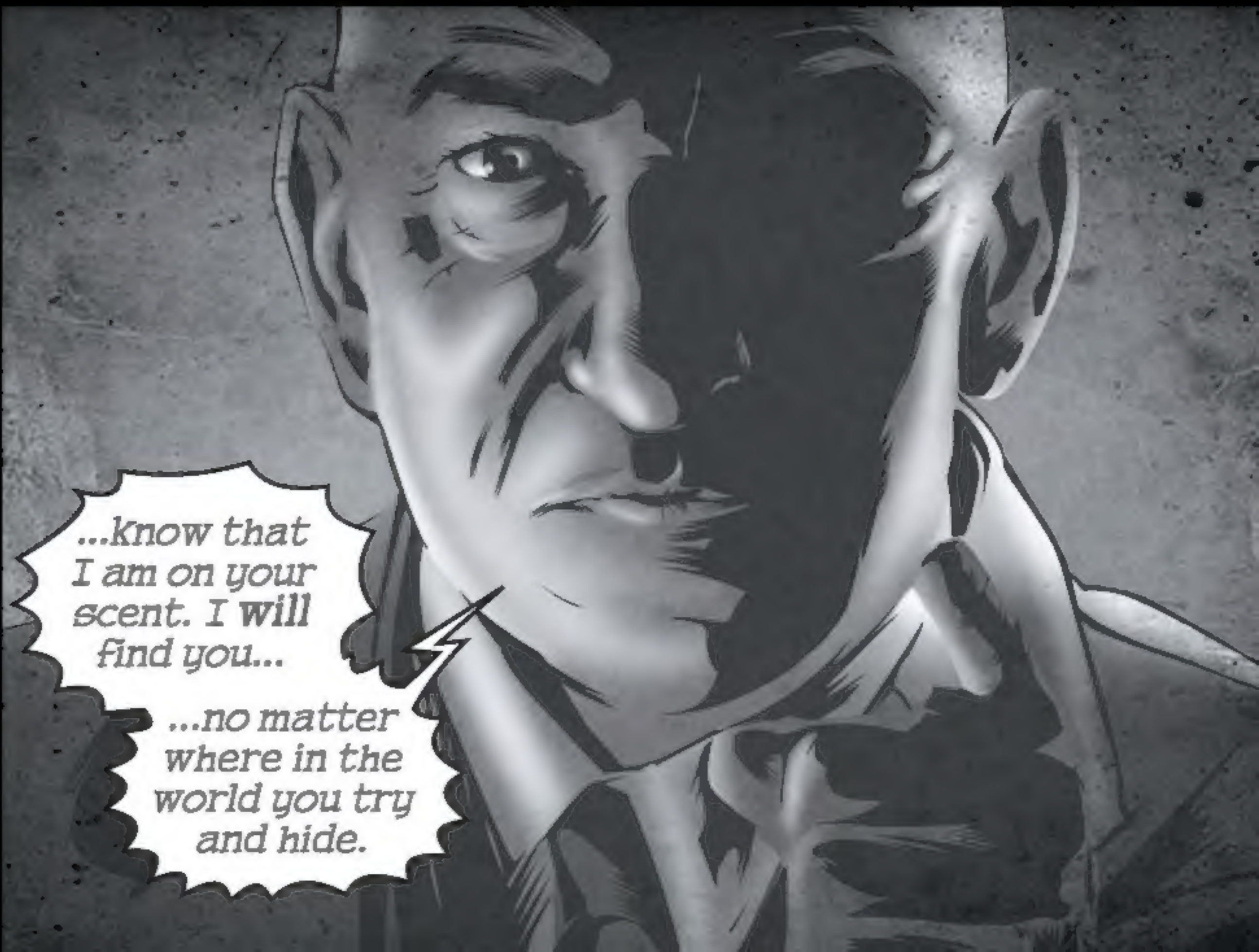


And I swear to the public, with his daughter Wanda standing by my side...



...I will not rest until I have brought his killers to justice!

If you're listening to this, you so-called "Angel," you and your gang, wherever you are...



...know that I am on your scent. I will find you...

...no matter where in the world you try and hide.



XMEN NOIR: MARK OF CAIN

BY FRED VAN LENTE AND DENNIS CALERO WITH

VC'S CLAYTON COWLES LETTERS AND PRODUCTION **MICHAEL HORWITZ** ASSISTANT EDITOR
NATHAN COSBY EDITOR **JOE QUESADA** EDITOR IN CHIEF **DAN BUCKLEY** PUBLISHER **ALAN FINE** EXECUTIVE PRODUCER



Any idea
what the inscription
on the base of
this thing says,
Tommy?

Looks
like Vedic
Sanskrit.

Gesundheit.



"You approach
the mighty temple-
slash-city-slash-tomb
of the God-King
Cyttorak."

This fellow,
here, is Achala,
"The Immovable
One."

He warns us
that trespassers
and grave robbers are
most unwelcome.

Violators who
ignore him will be
"crushed"--I'm quoting
here--by "The Unstoppable
One"... a fierce avatar
of Krishna...



"The Lord of
the Universe"...
"Jagganath."



"Jagganath."

"The
Juggernaut."



I don't
know why I even
bother asking
anymore.

You know
everything,
"Angel."

Except
whether we took
the right fork on
this path.



Your buddy Cain Marko said he traded a pound of opium for that ratty map.

Could be leading us off the edge of the Earth for all you know.

Again with the map. Look, Logan:

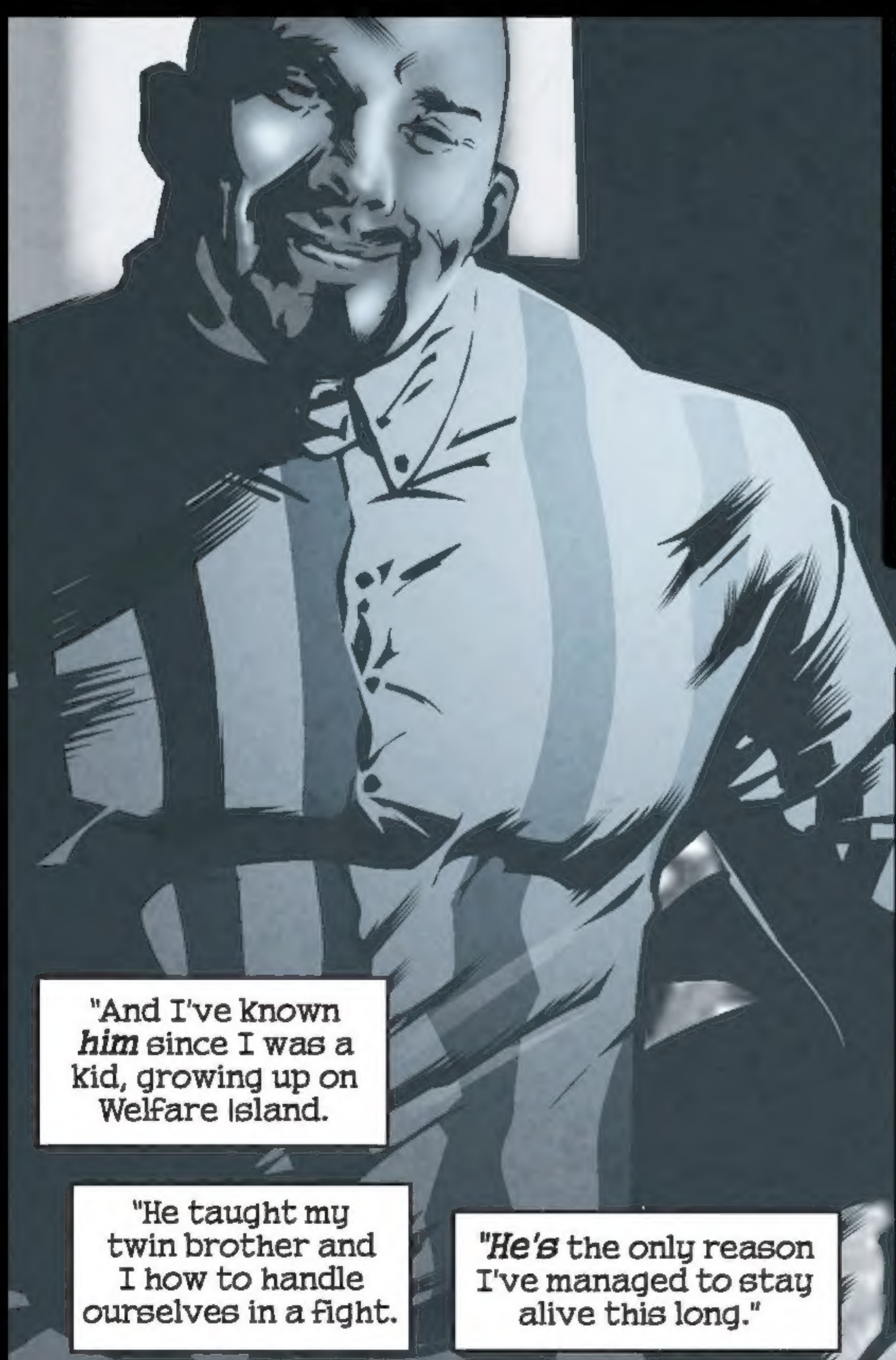
Cain's been a mercenary here in Madripoor through three colonial uprisings and a world war. He knows this island better than any white man ever has.



Cain was in the stir for bootlegging, you know. To you he should be a kindred spirit.

Of course he is. Why do you think I don't trust him?

His info's so good, why didn't he come along on this snipe hunt?



"And I've known *him* since I was a kid, growing up on Welfare Island.

"He taught my twin brother and I how to handle ourselves in a fight.

"*He's* the only reason I've managed to stay alive this long."



Need I remind you we're broke, Cap'n?

When I negotiated our price for this job, I wasn't in a position to interrogate the man--

...



Well.

At least
we know we're
going in the right
direction.



Now I don't know
what you boys
have heard...

...but we are
most definitely *not*
looking for the priceless
Crimson Gem in your
sacred Temple-Tomb
of Cyttorak.

Not us.

No siree
bub.



FWOOO!
FWOOO!



Hope you
remember everything
Marko taught you!

PING

PANG



Fortunately...

KRAK
KRAK



...we've
got one good
eye watching
over us.



Cyclops'
Remington '03
don't impress the
locals too
much!

Then
we'll have
to!



Somebody comes at you--

--big, cut, drunk, hopped-up, crazier than Lizzie Borden with a bigger axe--



--it don't matter, Tommy.

All you do is--when the guy comes toward you--

--you step forward--



--and greet him.



Even if he's as tall as you are, Mr. Marko?

Especially if he is.



My old man--way he laid into my stepbrother and me when I was your age--

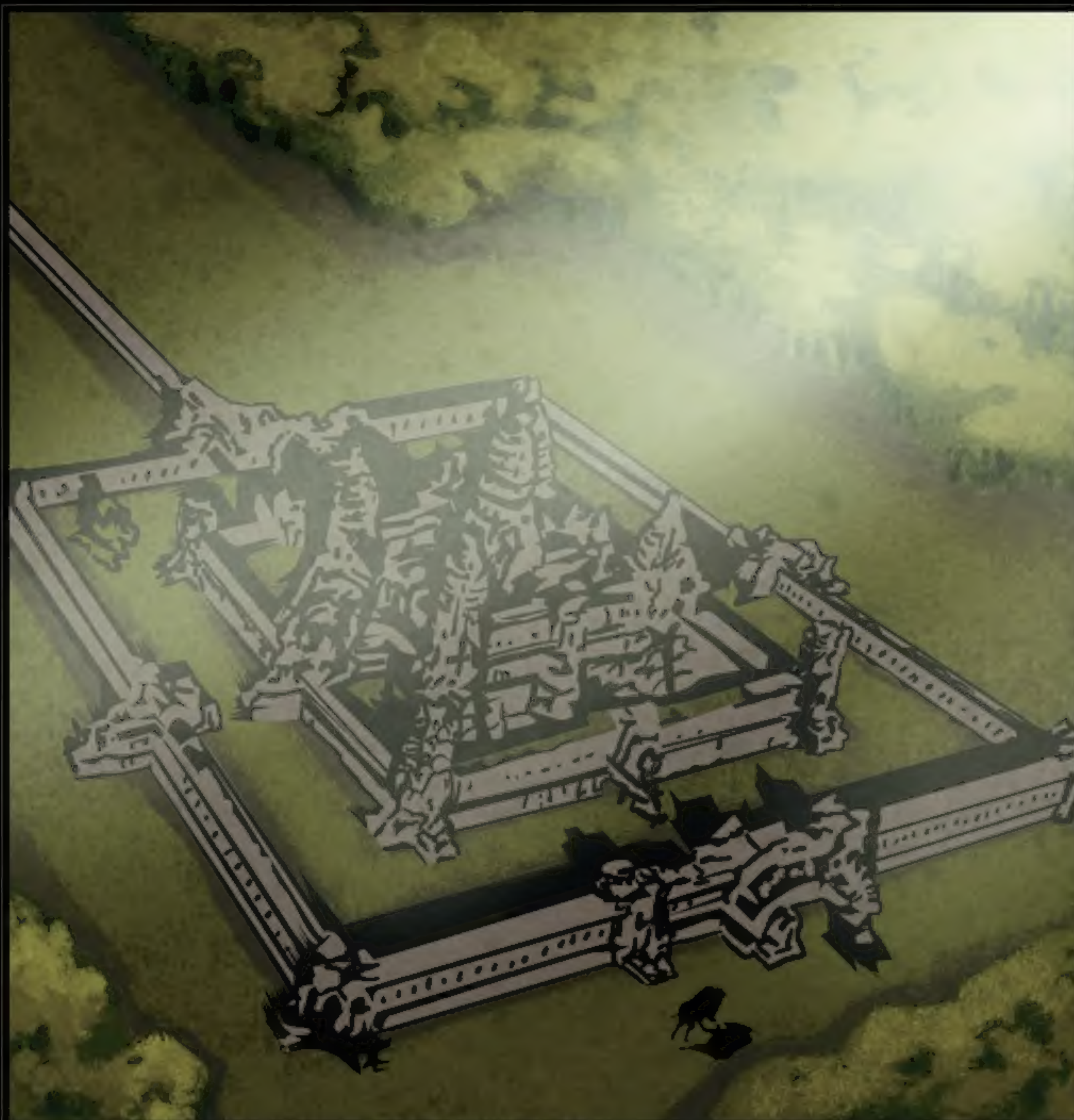
We coulda used lessons like this to cut him down to size.

Or...at the very least...



...we coulda used somebody in *our* corner.

Like you got with me.





The Kunlun "special amusement center" is the most famous landmark in Madripoor City's "Lowtown" district.



Its five levels of attractions represent the ladder scaling the center of the universe to the palace of Huang Di, Emperor of Heaven.

They say peasants come here on payday and go higher and higher, spending more and more on each new temptation...until they reach the top.

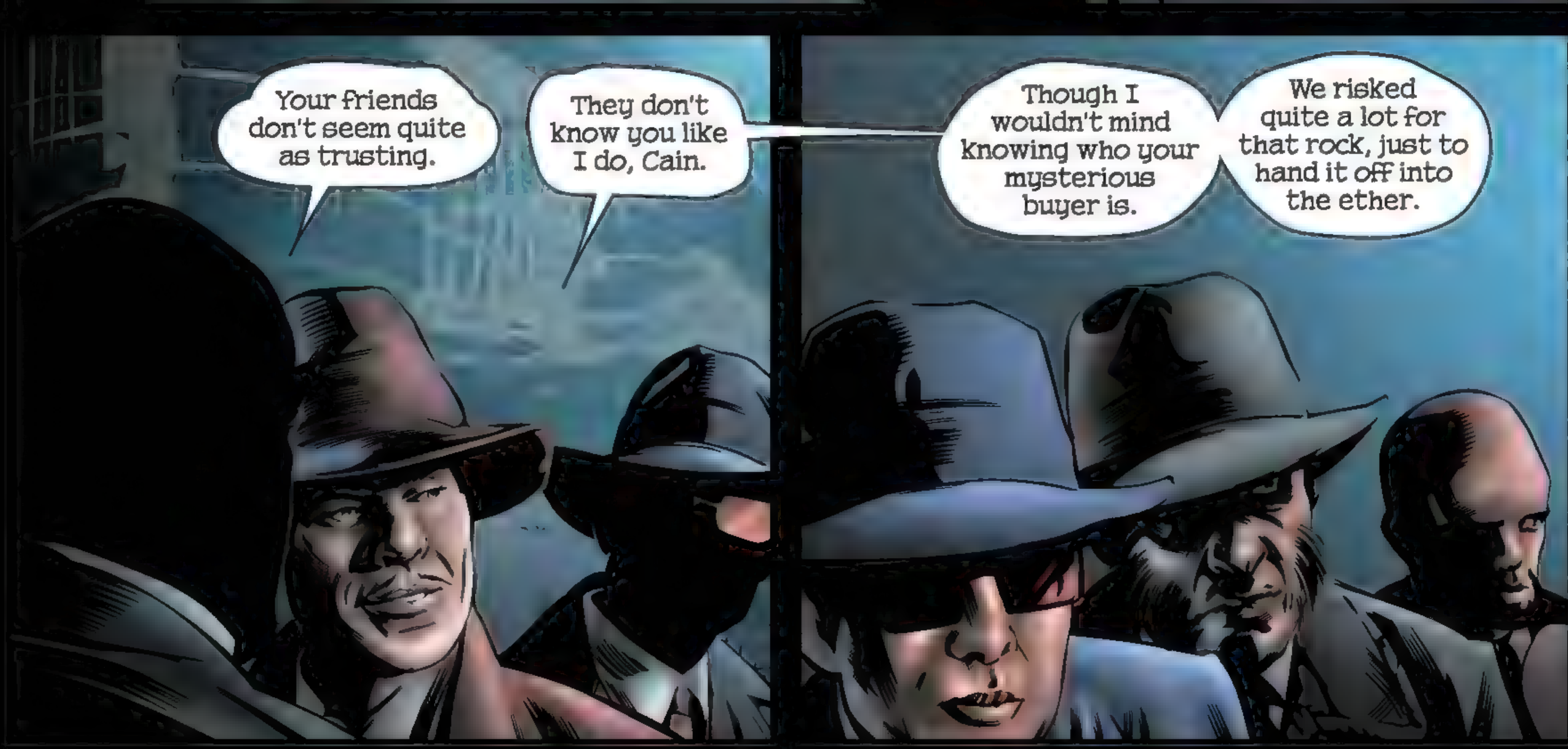


Then, their life savings spent away...

...they hurl themselves down to the street below.

Better than the *World Book Encyclopedia*, this one.

World Book shuts up every once in a while.





I want you to know...

Only reason I *agreed* to this is I knew *you* could get out of it, Tommy.

I taught you *good*.

What?

What are you saying?



Don't try and find me, Tommy. It ain't worth it. These are some bad people I'm messing with.

I know... after *today*... it'll be hard, but... *Please*...

...you gotta *trust* me.



Halt! In the name of Prince Baran!

You are under arrest for crimes against the Kingdom of Madripoor!



Cain...

What...

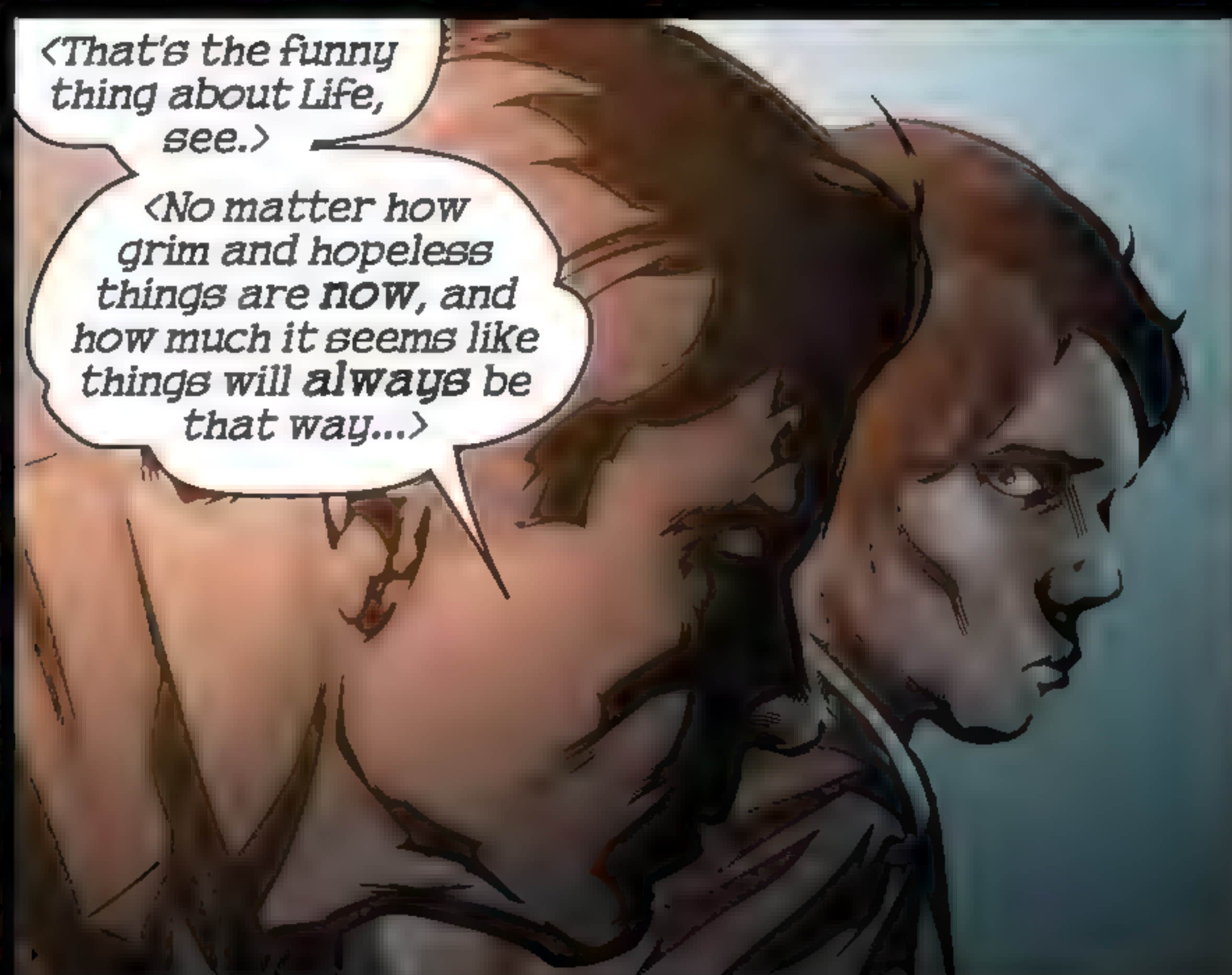


God damn it!

Newspaper!

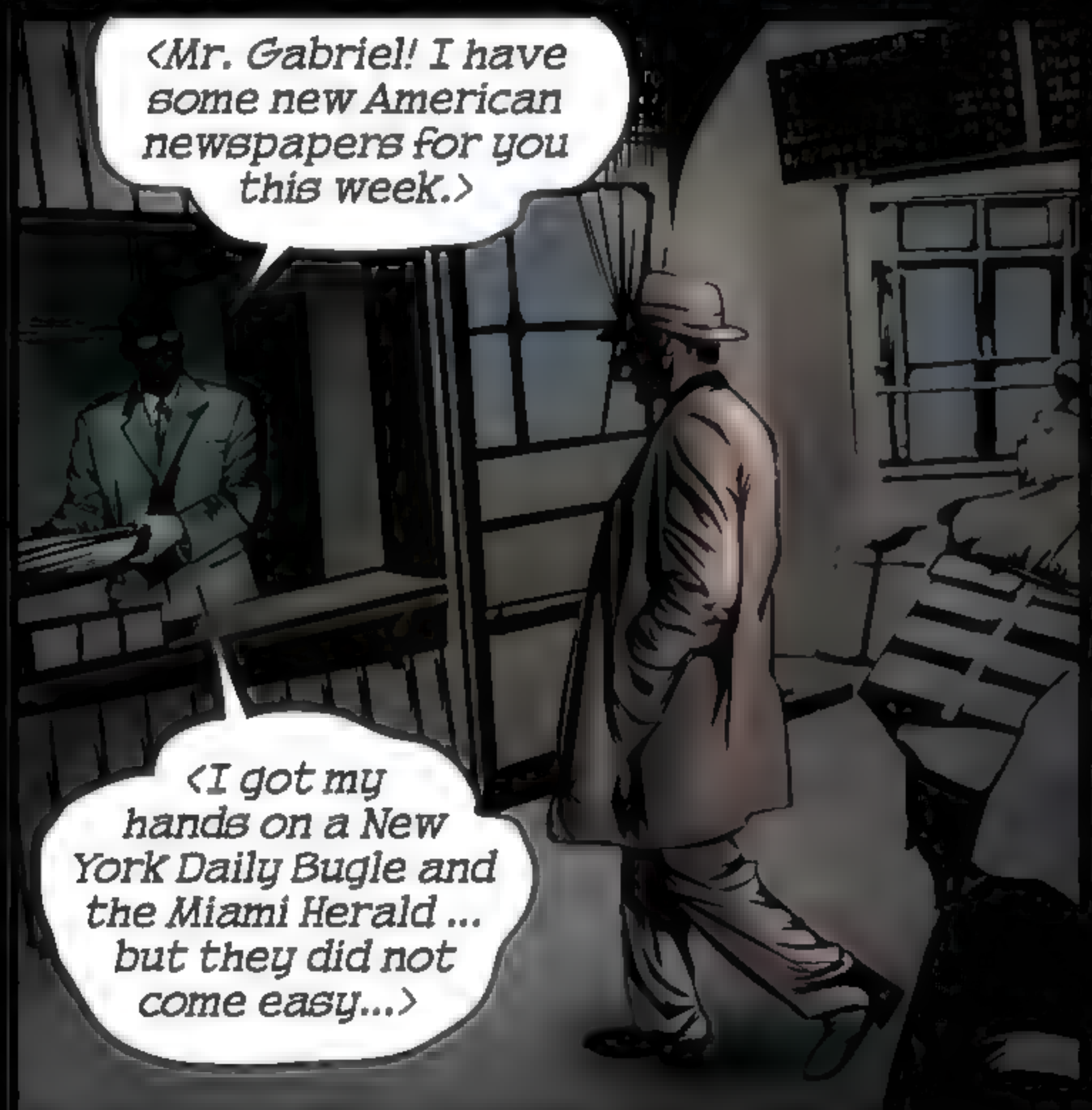
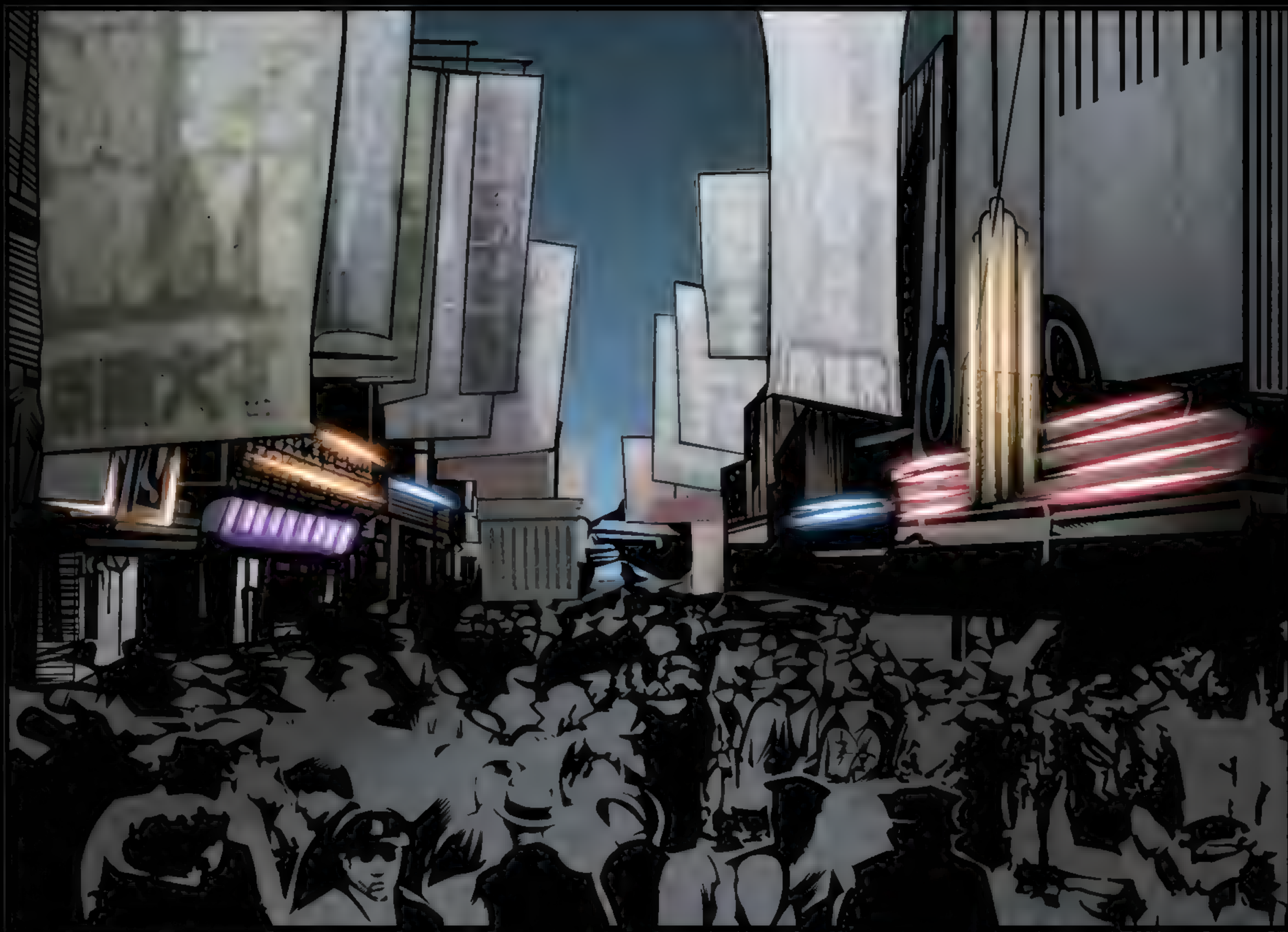






<...you never
know when something
will come along and
surprise you.>





«Mr. Gabriel! I have some new American newspapers for you this week.»

«I got my hands on a New York Daily Bugle and the Miami Herald ... but they did not come easy...»



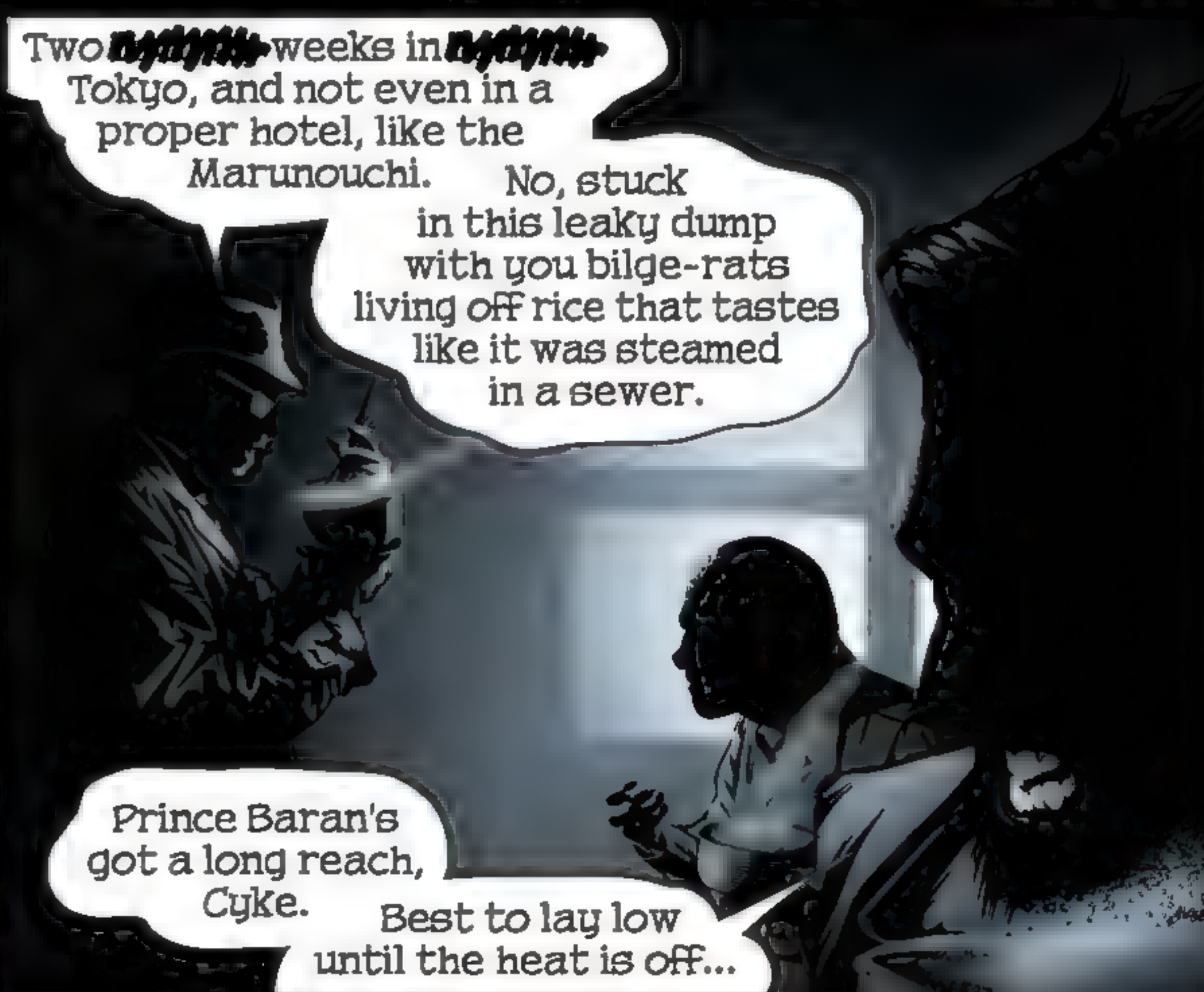
«Much obliged, Aki.»

«Keep the change.»



Two weeks.

Two ~~weeks~~ weeks.

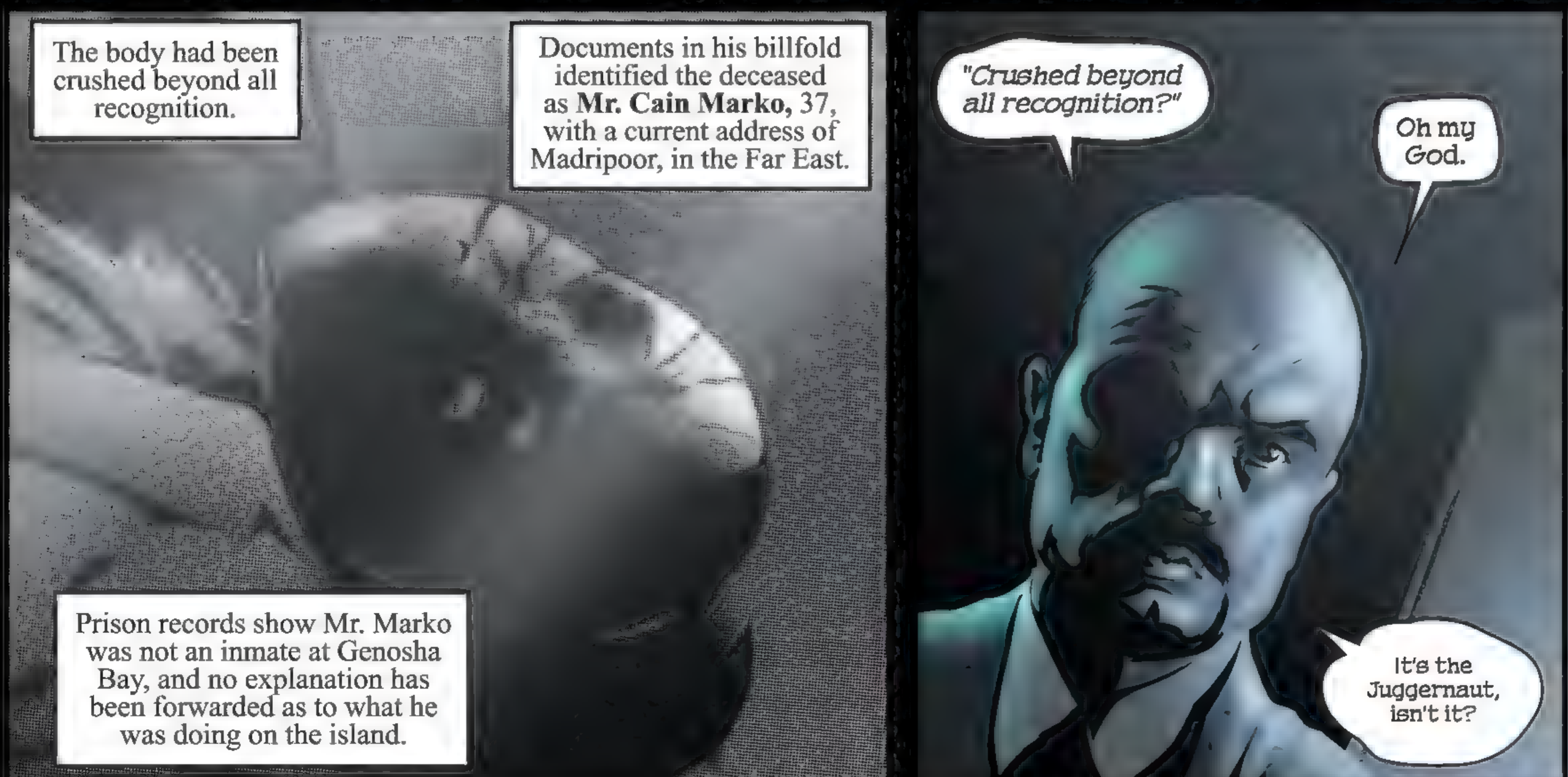
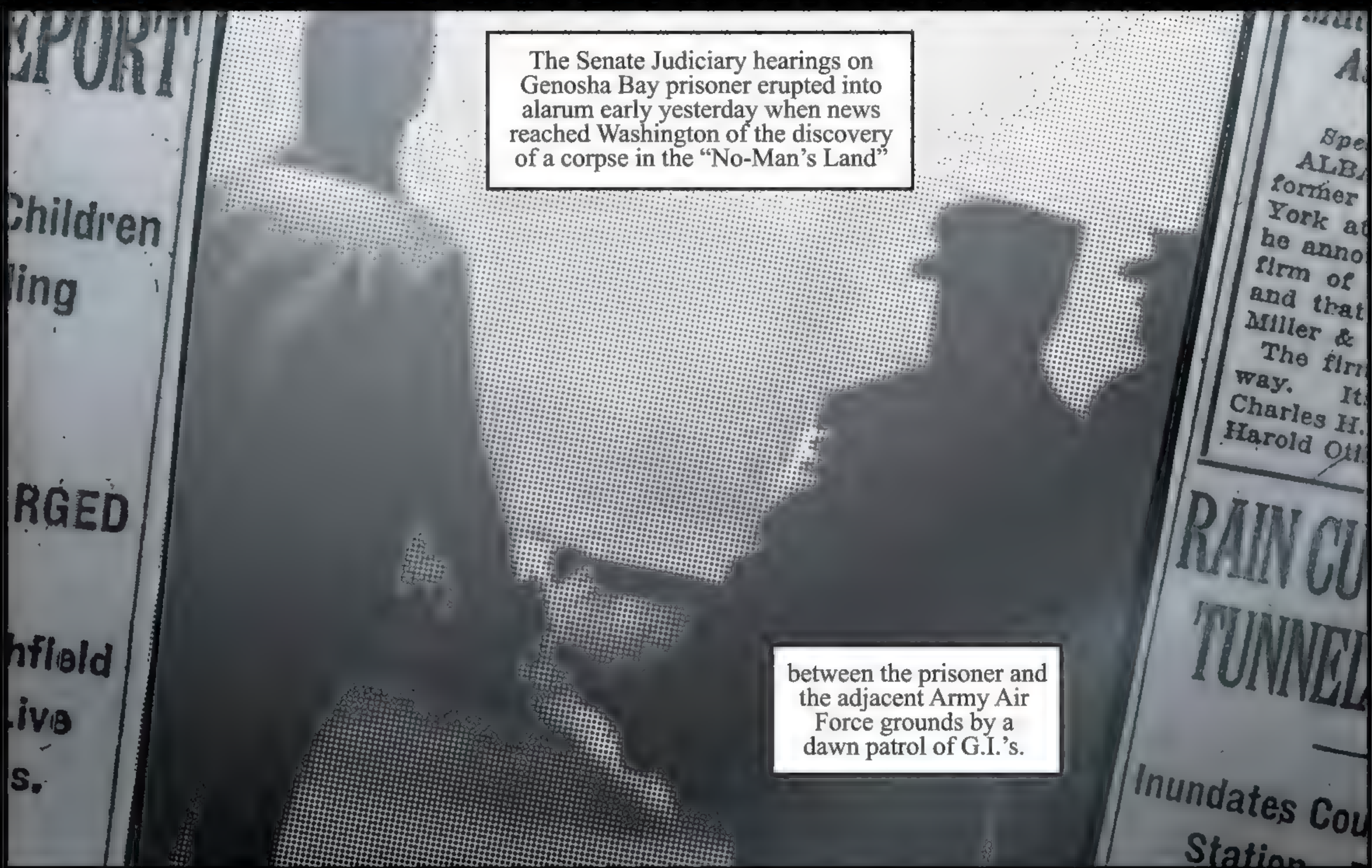


Two ~~weeks~~ weeks in ~~Tokyo~~ Tokyo, and not even in a proper hotel, like the Marunouchi.

No, stuck in this leaky dump with you bilge-rats living off rice that tastes like it was steamed in a sewer.

Prince Baran's got a long reach, Cyke.

Best to lay low until the heat is off...





Shut up, Judd.

You'll notice what the article doesn't mention.

The gem.

Where's our goddamn gem?



Oh, sure! You mugs can just laugh it off!

But I'm the one who actually went into the temple--I'm the one who picked up the goddamn thing with my own two hands!



And I mocked Cyttorak... I just looked right up at him and I mocked him!

Aw ~~WAAW~~...
aw ~~WAAW~~...

I'm dead...
I'm ~~WAAW~~ dead...
All over some piece of ~~WAAW~~ I didn't even get any scratch for...



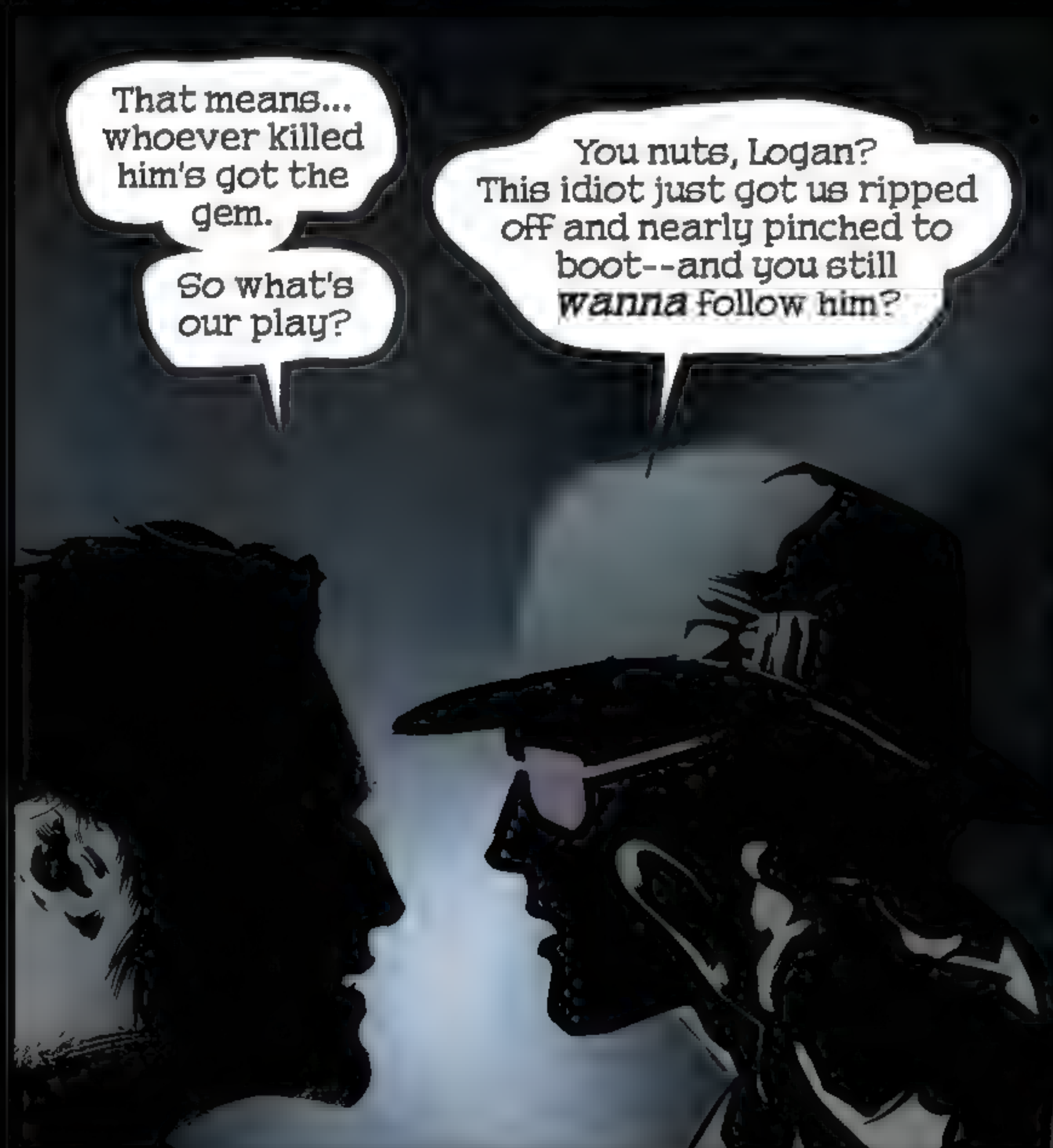
For God's sake, Eugene. Grow a pair.

What you thinking, Tommy? You don't actually believe this "Juggernaut" crap, do you?

No.

They know the legends.

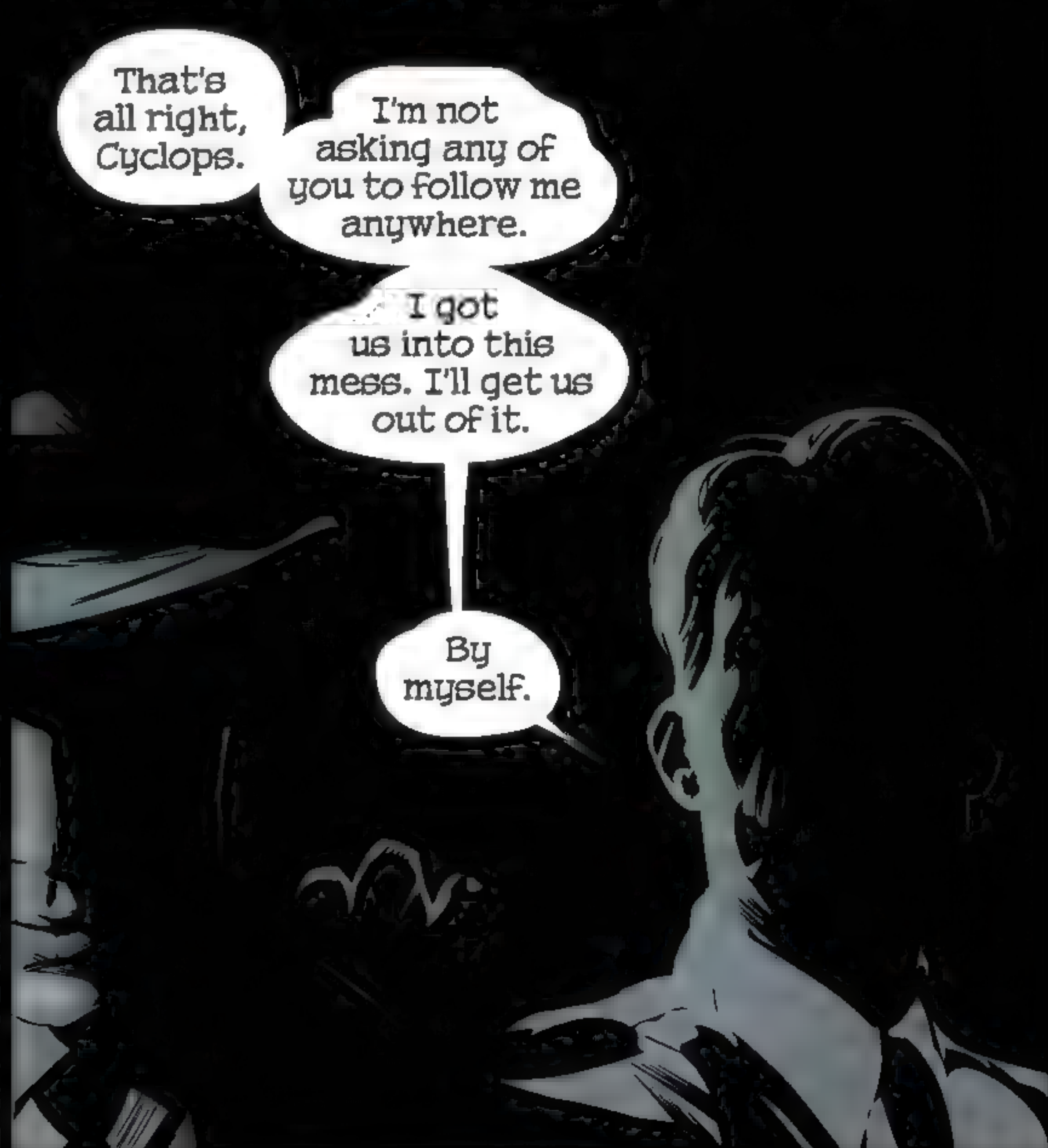
But whoever whacked Cain clearly thinks *somebody* will.



That means... whoever killed him's got the gem.

So what's our play?

You nuts, Logan? This idiot just got us ripped off and nearly pinched to boot--and you still *wanna* follow him?



That's all right, Cyclops.

I'm not asking any of you to follow me anywhere.

I got us into this mess. I'll get us out of it.

By myself.



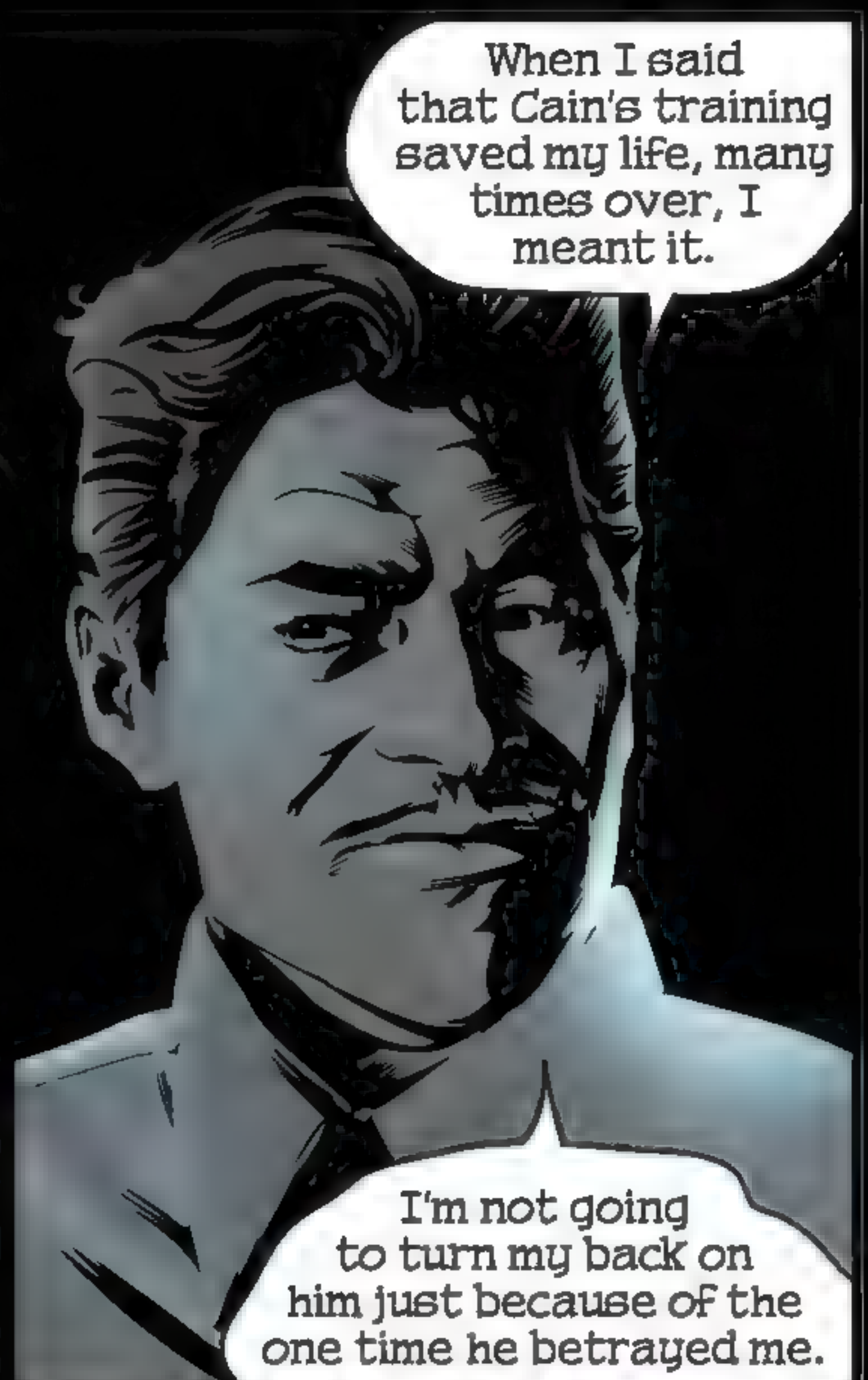
I wanna just cut our losses and go home!

No...



...I owe it to Marko. To find out who killed him.

You serious, Tommy?



When I said that Cain's training saved my life, many times over, I meant it.

I'm not going to turn my back on him just because of the one time he betrayed me.



I'd do the same for you.

I'd never ask you to.

Marko didn't ask me either.

You're a piece of work, you know that, Tommy?

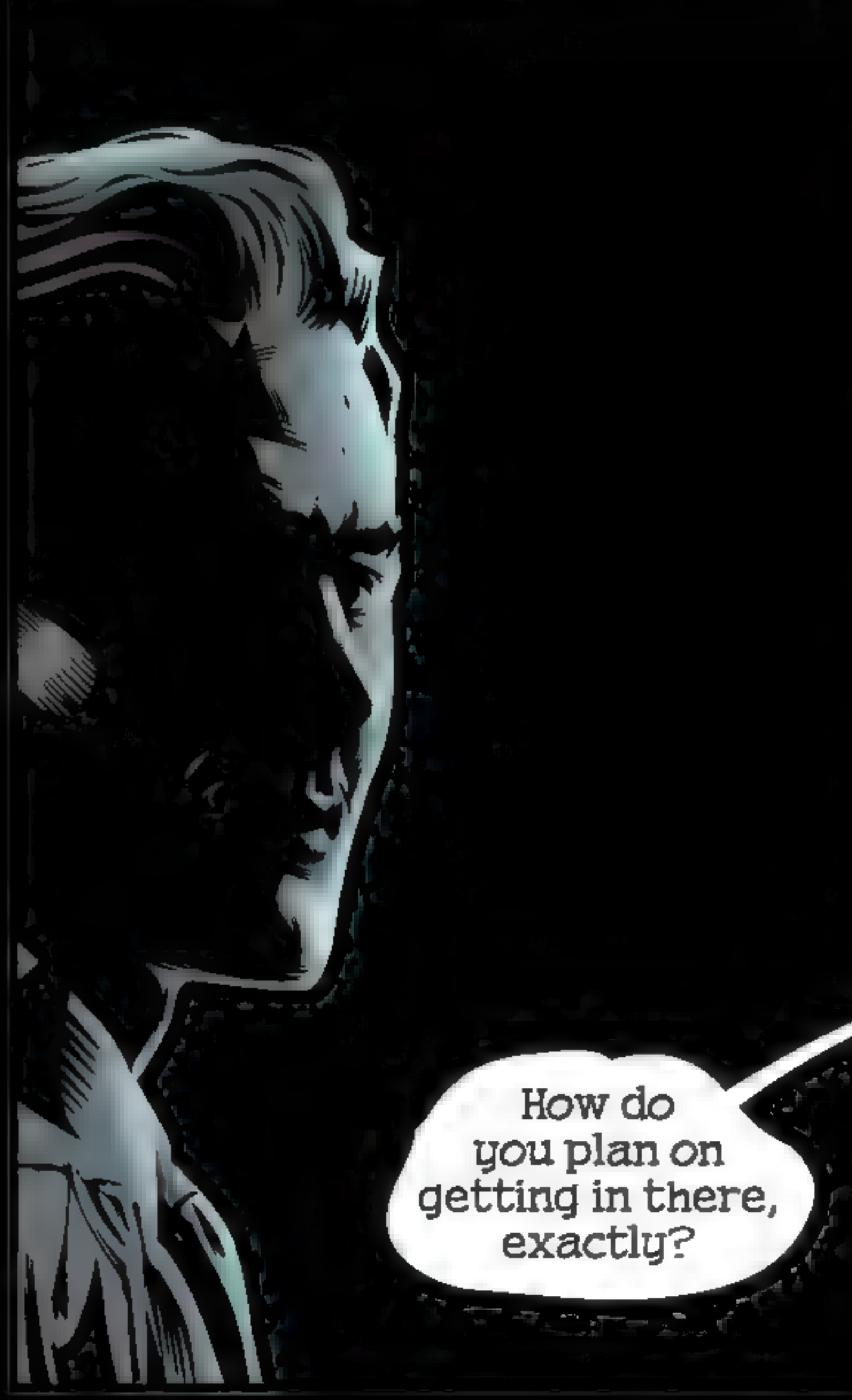


Please. He's just stubborn.



Genosha Bay is the highest security prison in the world. Next door to an army base.

It's locked down tighter than a parson's ~~*****~~



How do you plan on getting in there, exactly?



~~*****~~
Thomas Hallowsay...

"...you are one crazy son of a bitch."

<Tokyo Thought Police!!>

<In the name of the Emperor-- move not a muscle!>

KRASH!!

I am Lieutenant Kenuichio Harada of the Shiso Keisatsu.

We have received an anonymous tip.

You are Thomas Holloway?

The American criminal also known as *The Angel*?

Hmh.

Can't say the name rings a bell.

You are wanted in the United States for the murders of Chief Detective Eric Magnus...

...Detective Frederick Dukes...

...Detective Mortimer Toynbee...

...Anne-Marie Rankin...

...Robert "Bobby" Drake...

...Angelo Unuscione...



Mr.
Halloway.



I am
Warden Emma
Frost.

As you were
apprehended on
foreign soil...

...and the
heinousness of your
crimes render you too
dangerous to be incarcerated
with the domestic prison
population...

...you will
be my guest.
Without trial.

Without
appeal.

Indefinitely.



Welcome to
Genosha Bay.



He's
here.



The man
who killed my
father--and my
brother--is
here.

He's
here.

What do
you plan on
doing about
it?

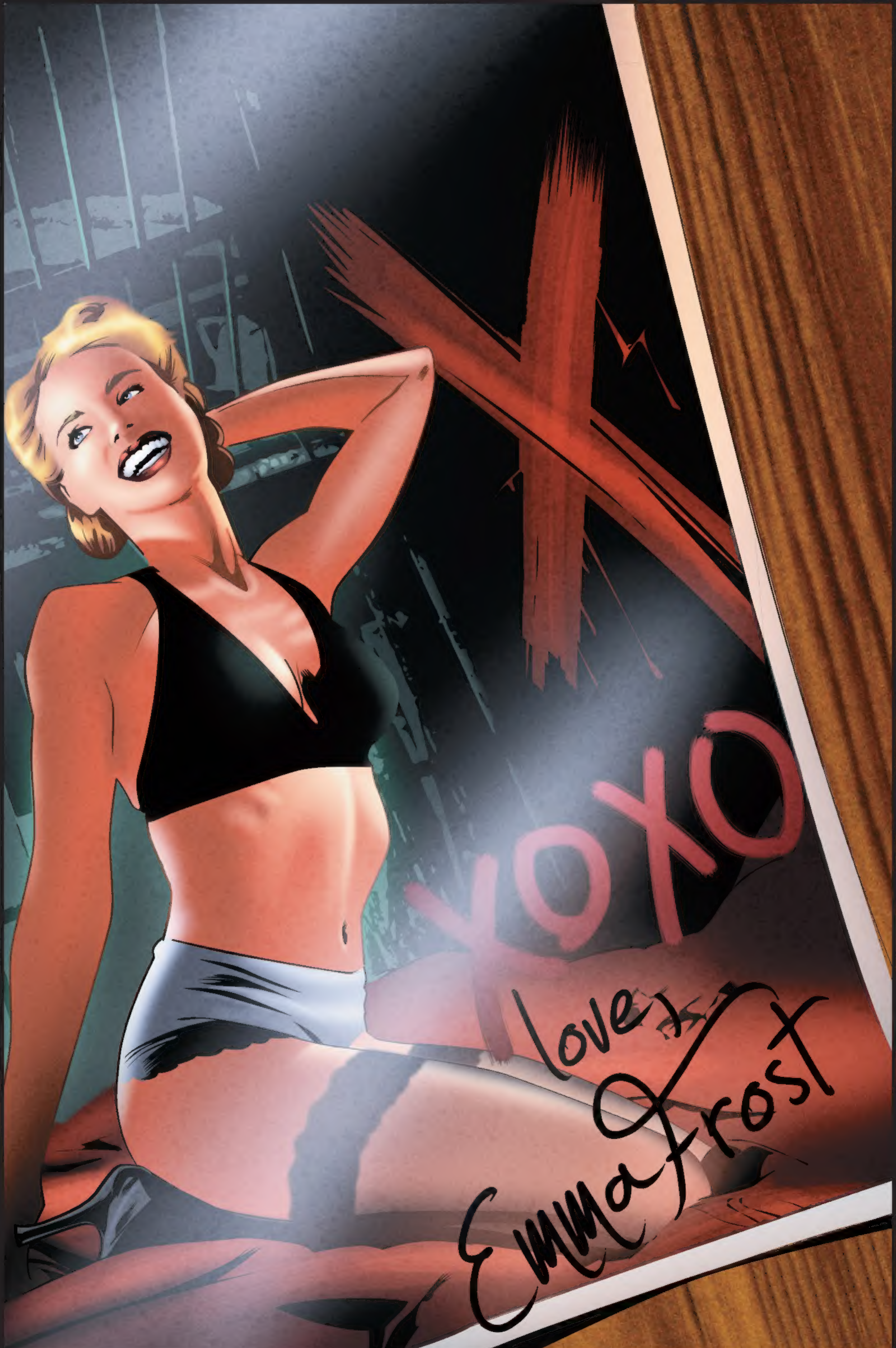


Something
new, I think.

Something...

...different...

NEXT ISSUE



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